

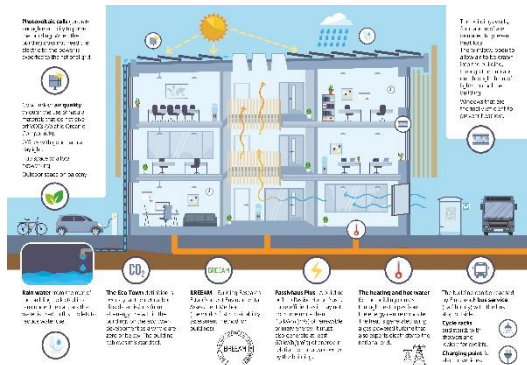
# Judges' Citation RTPI South East Awards for Planning Excellence 2019

## Category: Excellence in Successful Economy

Commendation: [Cherwell District Council](#)

### Perch Eco Business Centre, Elmsbook Bicester

The Eco Business Centre is an exemplar in sustainable architecture being the first non-residential Passivhaus Plus building in the UK.



It provides small office and co-working space and was planned to create employment alongside new residential development to increase the vibrancy of the local community.

It originated through the planning of the Eco Town Development at North West Bicester where a Local Authority team worked collaboratively with the developer to progress the planning and design of the site. A Supplementary Planning Document for

the site was produced and was followed by a planning permission for the first phase of the development which included land for the Business Centre.

The design of the centre needed to provide value for money whilst not compromising on the sustainability of the building and creating an attractive, healthy working environment. The Centre is part of the creation of a more sustainable way of living and developing new communities.

The judges noted that planners were involved at every stage of the design and build of the Business Centre and acknowledge the uncompromising efforts to maximise the environmental sustainability of the building.

The judges felt that the achievements were worthy of being recognised with a Commendation in the RTPI SE Award for Planning Excellence 2019.